



**Competition Scoring Criteria, Phases of Competition, Awards, Auditor Instructions and Sick Judge Rule**

*IMPORTANT NOTE: State and local leadership must inform all Miss America/Miss America's Teen delegates that categories and scoring percentages may change at the National Competition.*

**Number of Panelists**

The State and Local Organizations may choose a panel with at least five and no more than seven members. Olympic Scoring System to be used — subject to the “missing” (former ‘sick’) judge rule— high and low scores are dropped. At least one (1) panelist must be a novice to the program (more are preferred), meaning they have never served as a judge/panelist in a Miss America/Miss America's Teen local, state, or national level competition. In an effort to maintain diversity within our system, officials must have a POC serving on a panel of five judges and a minimum of two POCs for a panel of seven judges.

**Local Miss/Teen and State Miss/Teen Values**

**Single Night/Preliminary Night**

· Private Interview	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation	10%

**Final Night Values**

· Composite Score (multi)	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation (Semi-Finalists)	10%

*\* A Top 5 ballot is optional for local competitions but is encouraged for competitions with more than ten contestants. The final ballot will be utilized for State Miss/Teen single night competitions with ten contestants or more and final night (multi-evening) competitions. For clarification, no top 5 ballot is used for competitions with nine contestants or less on any level of Miss/Teen.*



### **Private Interview- 30%**

**Wardrobe:** Delegates Choice - Stylish Interview Attire (age appropriate)

**Timing:** 30 second opening, 9-minute Q&A, optional 30 second wrap up or closing statement.

#### **Fact Sheet & Community Service Initiative (CSI) Statement:**

- State/Local Organizations will use the same Fact Sheet throughout the competition year.
- Community Service Initiative (CSI) submission is a one-sheet document in which the delegate responds in a short essay regarding her personal CSI.
- A sample of the Fact Sheet and CSI will be provided.

#### **Procedures**

- The format decided must be uniform for all delegates.
- The delegate may be seated at a table or standing at a podium.
- The judge's chair introduces each delegate, takes her position, and presents a brief 30-second introduction/CSI overview. At either the conclusion of the CSI introduction (before the period) or at the 30 mark, the timekeeper will raise their hand, and the assigned judge will ask their first question.
- At the nine-minute thirty-second mark, the timekeeper indicates (30) seconds remaining for the interview. The head judge will inform the delegate of the remaining time, and the delegate may choose to use the time to finish her response to the last question or proceed with a closing statement.
- At the 10-minute mark, the timekeeper stands, and the head judge indicates the interview time is up. Concluding that delegate's private interview phase.

#### **Purpose** - Allows Insight Into the delegate's:

- Ability to fulfill the qualifications, responsibilities, duties, and terms of the titleholder.
- Personal qualities and attributes relevant to the titleholder position.
- Commitment to her community service initiative or CSI.
- Ability to express her own beliefs in an authentic and relatable manner.
- Sense of accomplishments /goals above and beyond the fact sheet.
- Spontaneity, intelligence, sense of humor, charm, and charisma.
- Authenticity and ability to answer questions in a conversational, unrehearsed manner.
- Ability to serve as a role model and if she is reflective of her generation.



## **Health & Fitness - 20%**

**Wardrobe:** Delegate's choice of Rebel x Miss America Collab Red Collection (mandatory) fitness outfit. Judges to evaluate the following: Overall First impression of a Dynamic Presence, Radiates Health, High Energy, Engaging Vitality, and a Sense of Confidence.

### **Procedure:**

- The organization will present each delegate in a pre-blocked, high-energy stage routine with movement and posing.
- Each delegate will not exceed 20-30 seconds.
- No props are allowed.
- State competitions may include, during Health & Fitness, LED video footage of the delegate representing their health & fitness initiative and/or a voice-over. Programs without LED screens may use video projection, providing the quality meets the State's expectations. This is not applicable for programs with no LED screens or video projection capabilities; however, Miss America encourages each State to raise its production value and set goals to implement such technology in the future.

### **Purpose:**

The delegate showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives during this competition phase. At the local/state organization's discretion this phase may include a voice-over on her experience with self-care and health goals and related initiatives or a health/fitness statement. A delegate's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life and the rigors of representing the Miss America or Miss America's Teen program as a national titleholder.

### **Allows Insight Into:**

- The delegate's comfort and confidence level on stage.
- The delegate's overall impression of health and physical fitness commitment.
- On-stage presentation and energy, comfort in front of an audience, confidence.
- The delegate's spontaneity and lack of "robotic" stage presentation.
- Ability to determine if delegate could serve as national health/fitness ambassador.



## **Performing Arts Talent/HER Story™ - 20%**

**Wardrobe:** Delegate's Choice – Performance Arts Talents or HER Story™ Presentation.

**Timing:** Up to 90 seconds.

### **Purpose/Procedure:**

To underscore the Miss America/Miss America's Teen commitment to performance arts education initiatives and women's efforts in dance, music, opera/vocal, drama, magic, oratory, circus arts, and storytelling. Each contestant will present her talent or HER Story™ presentation not to exceed 90 seconds per delegate.

### **Performance Talent Requirements:**

Talent must be approved by the National office or previously approved as listed on the most recent "Approved Performance Talent List" OR comply with the HER Story™ stage presentation guidelines.

### **Procedure & Performance Description:**

In the performance talent or HER Story™ competition, contestants will have 90 seconds to captivate the audience/judges with a talent performance or personal narrative. HER Story™ contestants may use LED screens, video projection, voiceovers, music backtracks, props, or any other creative means to enhance their storytelling experience; singers will use a microphone, pianists a piano, musicians a musical instrument, and so on. Regarding LED or video projection, this option only applies to States with these capabilities. The medium the contestant provides must be of professional quality and self-sufficient (start/stop). Pageant staff will not be responsible for advancing slides or executing the media provided by contestants other than to facilitate the incorporation of such into production.

Judges will evaluate each performance talent or HER Story™ based on the following criteria:

1. How engaging and compelling is the contestant's story or talent?
2. How effectively does a contestant connect with the audience on an emotional or entertaining level?
3. Do they convey their story or demonstrate a talent skill with skill and confidence?
4. How powerfully does the contestant deliver their story or demonstrate their talent? Can they engage the audience and maintain their attention throughout the performance?

### **Allows Insight into the delegate's:**

- Preparatory, performance, or storytelling skills.
- Overall presentation skills and ability to deliver a captivating presentation.
- Interpretive ability and entertainment value relative to the category of performance art.
- Stage presence, on-stage personality, and personal connection to her story.
- It allows a look at the totality of the performance elements of the on-stage presentation.
- Ability to capture the attention of an audience while performing on stage.



## **Evening Gown-20%**

**Wardrobe:** Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear - Appropriate for Red Carpet.

**Timing:** State/Local choice of timing to music.

**Choreography:** State/Local choice of blocking, choreography, and timing.

### **Purpose:**

The delegate will publicly present her sense of Style by wearing an evening gown in a fashion suitable for an appearance as Teen/Miss Local or State. A titleholder's role is attending galas, fundraisers, awards shows, and other formal events. This often involves walking a red carpet, posing for press photographers, modeling in fashion shows, and promoting various national fashion designers who partner with Miss America or Miss America's Teen programs.

Local/State programs are to create an elegant runway/stage experience set to music appropriate for this competition phase.

If voice-over tracks are being utilized for each delegate during their elegant walk, state/local officials should focus on reflection topics: *What women are most inspiring to them? What qualities of an empowered woman do they relate most to? Share their most inspirational quote and why it connects with them.*

Questions regarding why the delegate picked their gown or any style questions/references are prohibited in any voice-over.

### **Allows Insight into the delegate's:**

- Ability to capture attention on stage and individual stage presence.
- Comfort, confidence, and composure.
- Overall impression of ability to represent the Miss America or Miss America's Teen Organization at a high-profile event.
- Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself/performs in this phase of the competition, not on the gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.



## **Preliminary Night-On Stage Question (also referenced as On-Stage Conversation) - 10%**

**Wardrobe:** Delegate to be in Opening Number Outfit or Stylish Interview Apparel.

**Stage Production:** May be a single microphone handed to the delegate near the host podium or a panel style set on stage with stools or another creative mechanism to engage/delight the audience.

### **Preliminary Purpose:**

To engage the audience in a conversational perspective on the delegate's ability to have an extemporaneous conversation or respond authentically to a question in a manner befitting a brand ambassador or state representative

### **Questions:**

The preliminary question or conversation should be asked onstage regarding the Delegate's Community Service Initiative (CSI), or questions involving the social impact of community service, and response(s) should not be longer than 20 seconds. An overview (estimate: 10 seconds) must be provided by either a host or the contestant with a summary of the individual's CSI before any question. All contestants must have equal allotted time on stage with either format.

### **Allows Insight into the delegate's:**

- Commitment to the Service point of the crown.
- A unique perspective on community service and its local impact.
- Desire to create interest in her community service initiatives.
- Bring the interview to the stage in an interactive, engaging way to showcase each delegate.
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for titleholder's opportunity.
- It allows a look at composure in presenting ideas on stage.
- It allows a look at the interactivity with the panelists and the audience.



## **Single or Final Night On Stage Conversation - 10%**

**Wardrobe:** Either Opening Number Apparel, Stylish Interview, OR Evening Gown

### **Finals Purpose:**

Question or Panel Conversation may be immediately at the Call Out of Top Semifinalists, with the Delegate wearing Opening Number Apparel or after Call Out in a Stylish Interview.

Question at Competition Evening Gown - Gown should be the last competition in the lineup. The Top 10 or Top 15 (Or however your Semi-Finalist Call Out may be configured) Final Conversation/OSQ for each Delegate would be asked individually after completing a total evening gown moment on stage.

### **Questions:**

The actual questions may touch on an aspect of the Miss America or Miss America's Teen brand, mission statement, the four points (Style, Service, Scholarship, Success), the brand foundation of 'sisterhood', the delegate's vision of the effective marketing of the Miss America/Miss America's Teen brand. Conversational Panel questions may be more open-ended and relate to the day's topics. All questions should be vetted by competition officials and not generated by a judging panel or individual judges. However, judges may pose the questions. These questions should allow the audience to gauge the delegate's understanding of the role of Miss America or Miss America's Teen as a spokesperson/advocate for the brand and the delegate's ability to have an engaging commentary on stage. The host may include a "warm-up" conversation at the Director's discretion. The delegate will have between 15-20 seconds to answer the question. Questions may not be political or divisive.

- Allows a final, high-energy conversation with panelists to determine the best delegate for the role.
- Bring the interview to the stage interactive to showcase each delegate.
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for titleholder's opportunity.
- It allows a look at the sense of composure in the final moments of a decision.
- It allows a look at the interactivity with the panelists and the audience.
- Allows top delegates to demonstrate the depth of understanding about the brand of the Miss America/Miss America's Teen Opportunity and how serving as Teen/Miss Local/State will set the stage for becoming a spokesperson for those pillars throughout the state/country.



### **Final Ballot (Ranking)**

**Overview:** The delegate will answer a final open-ended situational question, for which the response should last no more than 30 seconds. The question will not be scored but CONSIDERED in selecting for the ballot.

The situational question may encompass all or part of the following: how she might handle situations that could arise while serving as the State Titleholder, her flexibility regarding the role and responsibility of representing the brand on the state level, what defines her as being the influencing force of her generation, what is relatable and authentic to her cohort; and, how she might impact her community and state program through the successful marketing and promotion of the brand.

**Wardrobe:** Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear

**Questions:** The State Director or his/her designee will craft appropriate open-ended questions that are situational and suitable for the final presentation of the delegates before crowning.

**Final Ballot:** The final ballot only applies to Local and State (Miss/Teen) single and final night competitions (10+ Delegates). The final ballot shall not be distributed to the panelists until all the Top 5 delegates have completed their Final Conversation phase of the competition. Panelists are to consider all factors and a delegate's overall performance on the Final Night when ranking these top finalists. This includes:

- The totality of the above qualities and attributes of State Titleholder.
- Her ability to meet the expectations set as the spokesperson for the brand and advocacy efforts on behalf of the State/National Organization.
- Each panelist must place the delegates in the order they believe the contestants rank in their capacity for the role of the State Titleholder.



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The point value of the ranking is as follows:

- 1st Place Rank = 10 points.
- 2nd Place Rank = 5 points.
- 3rd Place Rank = 3 points.
- 4th Place Rank = 2 points.
- 5th Place Rank = 1 point.

The point totals from the Final Ballot alone determine the outcome. All the panelists' Final Ballot points count - **high and low scores are not dropped in Final Ballot**. The points earned **before** the Final Ballot determine the Final Ballot's Top 5. After the determination of the Top 5, all competition points earned before the Final Ballot are not considered.



## **Composite Score - 30%**

### **Composite Score-Multi Night Competitions Only - 30%**

Following the Preliminary Night Competition, Panelists gather with State Leadership, Panelist Chair, and Auditors to conduct Composite Scoring. Panelists are to consider all factors and a contestant's overall performance to date and the role of titleholder when assigning this Composite Score:

- The sum of the qualities and attributes of a Titleholder and the role of Titleholder supplied to the panelists by State Leadership.
- Each Delegate's ability to represent the Organization in official sponsors/partnerships appearances, Miss America or Miss America's Teen national brand initiatives, and community service and advocacy opportunities.

### **DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF COMPOSITE SCORING**

Panelists will have a brief confidential and conversational discussion on the semi-finalists who are advancing to compete on the Final Night. This is also called the "Top 15 or Top 10 Meeting." As with Composite Scoring, this is a confidential process. It is designed for the panelists to learn from each other's expertise, **not from the ED or any other organization official**. The meeting should proceed as follows:

- The Panelist Chair collects all cell phones in the room to prevent the recording of any conversation, and once secured, states the name of the first semi-finalist in random order. Judges complete the final ballot on the first semi-finalist, and ballots are collected before moving on to the next delegate. The Panelist Chair then states the name of the 2nd semi-finalist in random order until all semi-finalists have been presented to the panel, scored, and ballots collected individually.

# The Miss America Competition

- (State ED discretion) Next, only after the scores have been submitted/collected the panelists will initiate an open discussion **related to each delegate's ability to perform the titleholder role and assume the responsibilities of the titleholder term.** The meeting's sole purpose is to allow panelists to glean insight from their fellow panelists. The State ED has full authority and discretion to limit the discussion as he/she sees fit to keep the conversation insightful.
- There may NOT be any conversation regarding scores or potential placement.
- The final wrap-up may include fielding individual judge's questions. It should also include the Executive Director's summary of the judges' mission in selecting the winner to reiterate the statements at the judge's orientation.

**It is a severe violation of MAIP rules if anyone, including the panelists, tries to predetermine the outcome of the competition or mentions or insinuates how they feel any contestant should finish. There can never be any discussion or decision regarding contestant placement among the panelists.**



## **On Stage Awards and Crowning Competition Awards and Runners Up**

**Wardrobe:** Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear.

All awards at the conclusion of either preliminary nights or finals nights will be presented to contestants while wearing an evening gown. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Note:** State and Local Program leaders must use caution in how many runners-up are announced. Rule of Thumb: Never leave fewer contestants standing without being announced than the number of contestants who are announced as a runner-up. (For example, if you have six contestants, do not announce more than two runners-up and the winner.)

Suppose the organization announces awards on-stage based on actual phases of competition. In that case, it **must be limited to no more than three (3) competition awards**, such as Performance/HERStory™, which may be broken out as two separate recognitions, Red Carpet/Evening Gown, or Community Service Initiative submissions.

Organizations are not required to announce any category awards.

**Preliminary Awards: To be awarded to contestants while in evening gowns. Typically, awards are given in the competition categories such as Talent, Fitness, and Evening Gown.**

Additional, non-competitive awards may be announced, but under no circumstances should **all** category winners be announced.



## **Auditor Instructions**

**TALLY SHEETS:** On the Auditor's TALLY Sheet, fill in the competition, name, and/or title of each contestant. and each judge in the spaces provided. You will receive a score sheet from each judge after each competition phase. Each contestant **MUST** receive points in each competition from each judge.

**OLYMPIC SCORING:** The Panelist Chair gives the Auditor all individual Score Sheets for each competition. After all Judges' Score Sheets are entered on the Tally Sheet, the Auditor will discard each Delegate's highest and lowest scores, adding the remaining figures horizontally and multiplying by the criteria value.

**POINTS TOTALS:** After the competitions conclude, the Auditor adds all points each contestant received in each phase of the competition and marks the total in the column, TOTAL POINTS. If you have nine or fewer contestants in a one-night pageant, circle the contestants receiving the five (5) highest points and place them in order of points received to determine the Winner, 1st Runner-Up, 2nd Runner-Up, 3rd Runner-Up, and 4th Runner-Up. On the card marked RUNNERS UP AND TITLEHOLDER, list the names of the Runners-Up and the Titleholder in the proper place. Give this card to the Judges Chair. Contests with ten or more contestants using a final ballot would follow the same process, but they would institute a final ballot ranking to determine the outcome of the competition.

**FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY COMPETITIONS THAT NAME A TOP 10** When the Semi-Finalists are announced, a new COMPETITION TALLY Sheet will be prepared listing the Top 10 in competition order. Only the composite score carries over from preliminary night scores. The composite scores are transferred to the Top 10 TALLY Sheet under the composite score column. The Score Sheets for Health/Fitness, Performance/HERStory™, OSQ, and Evening Gown are collected and recorded by the auditors on the TALLY Sheet on preliminary nights.

**TIES ON PRELIMINARY EVENINGS:** The decision to award all winners in a tie during Preliminary evenings is made by the Local/State Director. If a tie exists for a prelim award (i.e., Evening Gown, Performance/HERStory™), a NAMED CATEGORY TIE sheet is created for each judge, listing "tied" contestants, to allow each judge to circle preference of category winner. Auditors may **NOT** consider other categories to break a tie (i.e., evening gown or interview may **NOT** decide a tie in talent).



**TOP 10 TIES:** Delegates with the highest prelim points in the Composite advance to the Top 10. Order of progression to be Interview, Performance/HERStory™, Health & Fitness, Evening Wear phases. Judges DO NOT re-ballot into the Top 10 unless a tie exists in all competitions. A sheet is created for each judge, listing contestants with tied scores. Each judge circles his/her choice to break the tie.

**TOP 5 TIES:** For Top 5 ties or ties within the Top 5, the tie-breaking method is the same as in Top Ten Ties. DO NOT DESTROY SCORE SHEETS OR TALLY SHEETS.

**SECURING SCORE SHEETS:** At competition conclusion, the Auditor places all score sheets/tally sheets in a sealed, dated, identified envelope for safekeeping at a predetermined location established by the Local/State Board.



## **SICK JUDGE PROCEDURES**

The “sick judge procedures” refer to when one of the judges cannot complete his or her duties throughout all of the competitions.

All competitions must begin with 5 to 7 judges, with the high and low scores dropped. If a judge cannot continue, the competition may proceed as long as there is a minimum of 4 judges. If there are only four judges, the high and low scores are NOT dropped.

Once a judge cannot complete a phase of the competition, that judge may NOT return to judge the remainder under any condition.

### **SINGLE NIGHT COMPETITIONS**

**A Judge begins but does NOT complete the first phase of the competition, the Private Interview.**

The auditors must discard ALL the scores for the judge who had to leave during the Private Interview. The competition continues with the remaining judges.

**A judge completes at least one competition (Private Interview) but does not complete one of the other phases of the competition.**

The “sick judge” scores remain for any phase of the competition completed by the judge. If the judge had to leave in the middle of a phase competition, all scores for that phase competition would be discarded. The competition continues with the remaining judges.

For example, if the judge completed the Interview and On-Stage Interview phase and left in the middle of the talent competition, the auditors would keep the scores for the Interview and On-Stage Interview and discard the talent scores for ALL candidates.



## **MULTI-NIGHT COMPETITIONS**

**A Judge begins but does NOT complete the first phase of the competition, the Private Interview.**

The auditors must discard ALL the scores for the judge who had to leave during the Private Interview. The competition continues with the remaining judges.

**A judge completes the Private Interview phase but does not complete ALL Preliminary Night Competitions.**

The “sick judge” scores remain for the Private Interview completed by the judge. If the judge had to leave at ANY point during the ANY Primary Night of Competition, ALL SCORES for that judge are discarded for ALL PHASES FOR ALL PRELIMINARY NIGHTS. The competition continues with the remaining judges.

**IMPORTANT: Any Preliminary Awards determined or announced before the judge leaves will stand as announced. Any awards that have NOT been determined or announced should be based on the scores without the judge who had to leave.**

For example, A judge completed the Interview and, during the first prelim night, completed the On-Stage Interview and Talent phase and had to leave during the Evening Gown phase. The program intends to announce a Preliminary On-Stage Interview and Talent Award. The interview scores remain. The judge’s scores for ALL other phases of the competition are discarded. Preliminary Awards for that evening are based on the scores without the sick judge.

For example, A judge completed the Interview AND the first prelim night of competition. First-night preliminary awards were announced for On-Stage Interview and Talent. During the second prelim night, the judge completed the On-Stage Interview and Talent phases and had to leave during the Evening Gown phase. The interview scores remain. The first prelim night award stands. Since the On-Stage Interview and Talent phase were completed before the sick judge had to leave, the Preliminary Awards can be determined using all judge's scores. Once the scores awards have been determined, the scores for the sick judge need to be discarded for ALL phases of competition for the second prelim night AND also for the first prelim night.





In both cases above, the preliminary awards are based strictly on that phase with those specific contestants and the judges that completed that phase of the competition.

Also, in both cases above, the Semifinalists will be determined by the same judges who were able to complete ALL phases of competition on ALL prelim nights.

**A judge completes the Private Interview and ALL Primary Night Competitions but cannot complete the Composite Scoring process.**

The “sick judge” scores remain for the Private Interview and ALL Preliminary Competitions that determined the semifinalists. The scores for the composite scoring process are discarded for ALL semifinalists. The competition continues with the remaining judges.

**A judge completes the Private Interview, ALL Primary Night Competitions, and Composite Scoring phase and begins the Final Night Competition but cannot complete the Final Night Competition.**

The “sick judge” scores remain for any final night phase of the competition completed by the judge. If the judge had to leave in the middle of a final night phase competition, all scores for that phase competition would be discarded. The competition continues with the remaining judges.